

ABSTRACT  
WA-II-156  
Search Well  
Boonsboro Vicinity  
Private

Early 19th Century

Constructed in the four bay, off center front door plan, like many structures in Western Maryland, this house is outstanding for its refinement of design and unusual architectural features such as the wooden partition between two second story rooms which is hinged at the top so that it can be raised to provide room, according to tradition, for church services. The property is also significant for its numerous early out-buildings.

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received

date entered

58

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Search Well

and or common Search Well

**2. Location**

street & number Manor Church Road N/A not for publication

city, town Burtner ☒ vicinity of congressional district Sixth

state Maryland code 24 county Washington code 043

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name John M. Shank and Joseph O. Matthews, Jr.

street & number Route 1, Box 381

city, town Boonsboro N/A vicinity of state Maryland 21713

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington County Courthouse

street & number West Washington Street

city, town Hagerstown state Maryland 21740

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

Maryland Historical Trust

title Historic Sites Survey

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date Summer 1975 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

## 7. Description

WA-II-156

### Condition

☒ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved date \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

#### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Search Well is a limestone farmstead dating from ca. 1800 and located along the south side of Manor Church Road in Washington County. Included in the complex is the house, a smoke house, bake oven, springhouse and servants quarters. The house is a two and one half story, four bay building with a two story, four bay ell to the rear added during the second quarter of the 19th century. The front part of the house displays coursed limestone walls with flat arches above the openings at the south elevation, and modified central keystones above the other openings. The interior of the house features an original federal style mantelpiece with reeded decoration in the southwest room, and trompe l'oeil graining of the doors and staircase. There are two architectural features which are quite unusual among Washington County farmhouses. One is the egg and dart plaster molding decorating the ceiling of the southeast room. The other distinctive feature is the movable wall between the two south rooms of the second story. Built of vertical beaded boards and attached to the ceiling on hinges, the wall can be raised and hung on hooks to turn these two rooms into one large space. Nearly all of the interior work is original to the initial construction or to the period of the major addition during the second quarter of the 19th century. The outbuildings retain their original appearance and are contemporary with the house.

#### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The complex of buildings is oriented away from the present course of Manor Church Road which was relocated to its present route in the mid 19th century. The situation of the buildings attests to an older means of access to the farmstead.

From the front, the house appears quite imposing and its proportions are indeed elegant among rural housing in Washington County. The stones are quite evenly coursed and there is a large space between the upper level windows and the plate giving the house a long vertical dimension. Six light basement windows are also exposed above ground level.

Window frames are moderately wide, with a bead at the inner edge. Pegs securing the joints of the frames are visible. Windows at the first story level of the front section have nine over six light sashes while other windows with the exception of those in the basement have six over six light sashes.

The main entrance is located in the second bay from the west end of the front elevation. The door has a narrow frame with a beaded edge. This frame appears to be a replacement of the original material which probably matched the window frames. Above the door is a four light transom. An area around the door has been covered with stucco which was decorated with a vertical band of egg and dart molding. This plastered section is not original to the house, but apparently was done as part of a stylish modernization during the second quarter of the 19th century. The plaster was beneath a one bay Greek

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Search Well

Continuation sheet Washington County, Maryland Item number 7

Page 1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

Revival entrance porch which has been removed temporarily from the building for restoration.

The ell extending to the rear of the building has a double porch along its east elevation from which there are entrances into various rooms at both stories.

The interior of the house is bisected by a stair and entrance hall. To the east of the hall is a formal parlor separated from a smaller rear room by a broad archway. The focal point of the parlor is a fireplace in the east wall and decorative plaster in the form of egg and dart molding edging the ceiling. This trim is similar to that of the exterior plaster work around the front door and is probably part of the renovation from the second quarter of the 19th century.

The staircase in the hallway features decorative carved scrolls and trompe l'oeil painting on its side to suggest raised fielded panels. In addition, baseboards throughout the front section of the house are painted to resemble marble.

The room west of the hallway has a fireplace mantel with multiple reeded panels which is part of the original construction of the house.

The most outstanding element of the house is the movable wall between the two main rooms at the second story of the original section. The hooks and eyes for suspending this wall remain in place. The wall is built of vertical beaded boards attached to a frame. Chairrail and baseboard is applied to both sides of the wall.

At the exterior, a smoke house and bake house are located to the west of the house. Both are constructed of stone and retain their original interior features. The smoke house retains a central vertical post with attached side arms for hanging meats. The oven of the bake house is still in place. South-east of the house is a one and a half story secondary dwelling used to house slaves or hired help. It would appear to date from the second quarter of the 19th century. At the end of the property, several hundred feet south of the house, is a stone springhouse.

The property, which includes almost five acres, has been terraced and landscaped by the present owner.

## 8. Significance

WA-II-156

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify

Specific dates Early 19th century Builder Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Applicable Criteria: C

### SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Search Well is significant for its architecture, as an early 19th century farmstead which retains most of its contributing elements including a limestone farmhouse, smokehouse, springhouse, bakehouse and servant's quarters. Vernacular architecture of the early 19th century in the limestone region of Western Maryland was distinctly influenced by traditions developed in the Pennsylvania culture region; the main house at Search Well embodies this influence in its form, proportions, and plan, its carefully coursed stone construction, and the presence of a complement of outbuildings supporting specific domestic functions including a typical Pennsylvania bake oven. The house is distinguished by several architectural features which are not commonly found in buildings of its type: an original Federal-style mantelpiece with reeded decoration remains; fine trompe l'oeil grained woodwork and plaster egg-and-dart molding reflect a renovation carried out in the second quarter of the 19th century. These refinements are atypical of Washington County farmhouses of the period. A moveable partition, constructed of vertical boards and hinged at the ceiling, separates two second-story rooms; this element is unknown elsewhere in Washington County.

### HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Any discussion of Search Well should focus on the hinged wall because it is such an unusual element. The purpose of such a wall is not clearly defined. Obviously, the wall when raised turned the two rooms it separates into one large space. According to local tradition, the house was used as a place of worship. When a church service was held, the wall was raised and the congregation met in the second floor of the house. No documentation was found to either support or deny this tradition. However, the Manor Church which is located about one and a half miles west of this house is a stone structure which post-dates the Search Well house. The Manor Church served the surrounding community and continues in use today.

Another significant feature of the house is that it shows an unusual degree of refinement among farmhouses in Washington County. This refinement is seen in the decorative plaster molding, the painted trim and the reeded mantelpiece.

Land and probate records suggest that Search Well may have been built by or for Isaac Hershey or perhaps one of his sons. The Hershey family owned a large amount of land in the Manor Church vicinity during the late 18th and

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Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Search Well

Continuation sheet Washington County, Maryland Item number 8 and 10

Page 2

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

early 19th centuries. In 1794, Isaac Hershey purchased from Thomas Smith 560 1/2 acres for \$ 3000, (Deed Book H, page 922). In his will, made June 6, 1811, (Will Book B, page 241), Isaac Hershey mentions his sons, Isaac, David, and Christian, and refers to several houses on his property: a wooden dwelling adjoining a stone house and his "present mansion house" with an "addition built thereto". Between 1811 and 1845, there are no clear records concerning this property. Isaac Hershey's son, Christian, died about 1830, leaving several children including a daughter named Catherine. It is not known from information currently available whether Christian's daughter, Catherine, is the same Catherine Hershey who sold the farm upon which Search Well is located to Phineas Williams in 1845 (Deed Book IN 1, page 646). Williams' purchase price of \$10,815.94 suggests that the improvements on the property were substantial. By 1878, the property had descended from Phineas Williams to Samuel and Martha E. Schlosser, who sold it on April 16th of that year to Nathaniel Mumma. The farm descended through the Mumma family until 1967 when the 4.5 acre tract containing the house and domestic outbuildings was separated from the larger farm and sold. The present owners purchased Search Well in 1967 and have restored the house to its current appearance.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

The nominated acreage includes the entire property held by the present owners. The acreage includes the buildings and their immediately surrounding grounds which constitute an environment for the buildings.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The 4.5 acres upon which the nominated buildings stand is a rectangular tract with Manor Church Road forming its northern side. From a point on the south side of Manor Church Road, northwest of the house the boundary extends to the south approximately 450 feet to a point; then turns east approximately 400 feet to the southeast corner of the springhouse, then north 450 about 400 feet to the south side of the road, then west along the margin of the road to the place beginning.

Washington County Land Records.  
 Washington County Probate Records.  
 Williams, T.J.C., History of Washington County. Hagerstown,  
 Mail Publishing Co., 1906.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 4.5 acres

Quadrangle name Funkstown, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 

1	8
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2	6	6	8	2	0
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4	3	7	7	8	4	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

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1	8
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2	6	6	7	8	0
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4	3	7	7	7	0	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

C 

1	8
---	---

2	6	6	6	4	0
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4	3	7	7	7	4	0
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1	8
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2	6	6	6	8	0
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4	3	7	7	8	6	0
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Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paula Stoner Reed

organization Preservation Associates, Inc.

date October 1981

street & number Box 202

telephone (301) 432-5466

city or town Sharpsburg

state Maryland 21782

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*J. Mitchell*

12-6-82

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

date

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



## 1. Name

historic

and/or common Search Well

## 2. Location

street & number Manor Church Road N/A not for publication

city, town Burtner ☒ vicinity of congressional district 6

state Maryland code county Washington code

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name John M. Shank and Joseph O. Matthews, Jr.

street & number Route #1, Box 381

city, town Boonsboro ☐ vicinity of state Maryland 21713

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington County Court House

street & number West Washington Street

city, town Hagerstown state Maryland 21740

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust  
Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

Summer 1975 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401



## 7. Description

WA-II-156

### Condition

☒ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

#### DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Search Well is a limestone farmstead dating from ca. 1800 and located along the south side of Manor Church Road in Washington County. Included in the complex is the house, a smoke house, bake oven, springhouse, and servants' quarters. The stone end barn which completes the group is now part of an adjoining property. The house is a two and one half story, four bay building with a two story, four bay ell to the rear added during the second quarter of the 19th century. The front part of the house displays coursed limestone walls with flat arches above the openings at the south elevation, and modified central keystones above the other openings. The interior of the house features an original federal style mantelpiece with reeded decoration in the southwest room, and trompe l'oeil graining of the doors and staircase. Probably the most unusual feature of the house is the movable wall between the two south rooms of the second story. Built of vertical beaded boards and attached to hinges, the wall can be raised and hung on hooks to turn these two rooms into one large space. Nearly all of the interior work is original to the initial construction or to the period of the major addition during the second quarter of the 19th century. The outbuildings retain their original appearance and are contemporary with the house.

#### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The complex of buildings is oriented away from the present course of Manor Church Road which was relocated to its present route in the mid 19th century. The situation of the buildings attests to an older means of access to the farmstead.

From the front, the house appears quite imposing and its proportions are indeed elegant among rural housing in Washington County. The stones are quite evenly coursed and there is a large space between the upper level windows and the plate giving the house a long vertical dimension. Six light basement windows are also exposed above ground level.

Window frames are moderately wide, with a bead at the inner edge. Pegs securing the joints of the frames are visible. Windows at the first story level of the front section have nine over six light sashes while other windows with the exception of those in the basement have six over six light sashes.

The main entrance is located in the second bay from the west end of the front elevation. The door has a narrow frame with a beaded edge. This frame appears to be a replacement of the original material which probably matched the window frames. Above the door is a four light transom. An area around the door has been covered with stucco which was decorated with a vertical band of egg and dart molding. This plastered section is not original to the house, but apparently was done as part of a stylish modernization during the second quarter of the 19th century. The plaster was beneath a one bay Greek

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Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Search Well

Continuation sheet Washington County, Maryland Item number 7

Page 1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

Revival entrance porch which has been removed temporarily from the building for restoration.

The ell extending to the rear of the building has a double porch along its east elevation from which there are entrances into various rooms at both stories.

The interior of the house is bisected by a stair and entrance hall. To the east of the hall is a formal parlor separated from a smaller rear room by a broad archway. The focal point of the parlor is a fireplace in the east wall and decorative plaster in the form of egg and dart molding edging the ceiling. This trim is similar to that of the exterior plaster work around the front door and is probably part of the renovation from the second quarter of the 19th century.

The staircase in the hallway features decorative carved scrolls and trompe l'oeil painting on its side to suggest raised fielded panels. In addition, baseboards throughout the front section of the house are painted to resemble marble.

The room west of the hallway has a fireplace mantel with multiple reeded panels which is part of the original construction of the house.

The most outstanding element of the house is the movable wall between the two main rooms at the second story of the original section. The hooks and eyes for suspending this wall remain in place. The wall is built of vertical beaded boards attached to a frame. Chairrail and baseboard is applied to both sides of the wall.

At the exterior, a smoke house and bake house are located to the west of the house. Both are constructed of stone and retain their original interior features. The smoke house retains a central vertical post with attached side arms for hanging meats. The oven of the bake house is still in place. Southeast of the house is a one and a half story secondary dwelling used to house slaves or hired help. It would appear to date from the second quarter of the 19th century. At the end of the property, several hundred feet south of the house, is a stone springhouse.

The property, which includes almost five acres, has been terraced and landscaped by the present owner.

## 8. Significance

WA-II-156

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates      Early 19th century      Builder/Architect      Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criteria: C

### SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Search Well is significant for its contribution to knowledge about early 19th century architecture in the limestone region of Western Maryland, which came under great cultural influence from Pennsylvania. The complex is important on two levels. First, it contains nearly all of the support buildings generally found on an early 19th century prosperous farm. Further, all of these buildings which remain at Search Well are essentially original, containing most of the elements with which they functioned as built. Second, the house at Search Well is distinguished by several features which, if not unique in Western Maryland, are highly unusual in the surrounding area. The movable second story partition is such an element which remains in the house without alteration. A similar partition can be seen in the General Gates house in York, Pennsylvania, but no other examples are known in the region. Other unusual features include the fine graining on the woodwork and the egg and dart molding to the parlor ceiling as part of the renovation in the second quarter of the 19th century. Few groupings offer such a composite picture of rural building needs and construction preferences in the early 19th century.

### HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Any discussion of Search Well should focus on the hinged wall because it is such an unusual element. The purpose of such a wall is not clearly defined. Obviously, the wall when raised turned the two rooms it separated into one large space. According to local tradition, the house was used as a place of worship. When a church service was held, the wall was raised and the congregation met in the second floor of the house. No documentation was found to either support or deny this tradition. However, the Manor Church which is located about one and a half miles west of this house is a stone structure which post dates the Search Well house. The Manor Church served the surrounding community and continues in use today.

Another significant feature of the house is that it shows an unusual degree of refinement among farmhouses in Washington County. This refinement is seen in the decorative plaster molding, the painted trim and the reeded mantelpiece.

Land and probate records suggest that Search Well may have been built by or for Isaac Hershey or perhaps one of his sons. The Hershey family owned a large amount of land in the Manor Church vicinity during the late 18th and

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Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Search Well

Continuation sheet Washington County, Maryland Item number 8 and 10

Page 2

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

early 19th centuries. In 1794, Isaac Hershey purchased from Thomas Smith 560 1/2 acres for \$ 3000, (Deed Book H, page 922). In his will, made June 6, 1811, (Will Book B, page 241), Isaac Hershey mentions his sons, Isaac, David, and Christian, and refers to several houses on his property: a wooden dwelling adjoining a stone house and his "present mansion house" with an "addition built thereto". Between 1811 and 1845, there are no clear records concerning this property. Isaac Hershey's son, Christian, died about 1830, leaving several children including a daughter named Catherine. It is not known from information currently available whether Christian's daughter, Catherine, is the same Catherine Hershey who sold the farm upon which Search Well is located to Phineas Williams in 1845 (Deed Book IN 1, page 646). Williams' purchase price of \$10,815.94 suggests that the improvements on the property were substantial. By 1878, the property had descended from Phineas Williams to Samuel and Martha E. Schlosser, who sold it on April 16th of that year to Nathaniel Mumma. The farm descended through the Mumma family until 1967 when the 4.5 acre tract containing the house and domestic outbuildings was separated from the larger farm and sold. The present owners purchased Search Well in 1967 and have restored the house to its current appearance.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

The nominated acreage includes the entire property held by the present owners. The acreage includes the buildings and their immediately surrounding grounds which constitute an environment for the buildings.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The 4.5 acres upon which the nominated buildings stand is a rectangular tract with Manor Church Road forming its northern side. From a point on the south side of Manor Church Road, northwest of the house the boundary extends to the south approximately 450 feet to a point; then turns east approximately 400 feet to the southeast corner of the springhouse, then north 450 about 400 feet to the south side of the road, then west along the margin of the road to the place beginning.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

WA-II-156

Washington County Land Records.  
Washington County Probate Records.  
Williams, T.J.C., History of Washington County, Hagerstown,  
Mail Publishing Co., 1906.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 4.5

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

## 1. Form Prepared By

name/title Paula Stoner Reed

organization Preservation Associates, Inc.

date October 1981

street &amp; number Box 202

telephone 301-432-5466

city or town Sharpsburg

state Maryland 21782

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

date

For NCHS use only:  
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

 NOMINATION FORM  
 for the  
 NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>				
COMMON: <b>Search Well</b>				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
<b>2. LOCATION</b>				
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>Manor Church Road</b>				
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Burtner, Boonsboro Vicinity</b>				
STATE: <b>Maryland</b>			COUNTY: <b>Washington</b>	
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>				
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC	
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>				
OWNER'S NAME: <b>John M. Shank and Joseph O. Matthews, Jr.</b>				
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>Route # 1, Box 381</b>				
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Boonsboro</b>			STATE: <b>Maryland</b>	<b>21713</b>
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: <b>Washington County Court House</b>				
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>West Washington Street</b>				
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Hagerstown</b>			STATE: <b>Maryland</b>	<b>21740</b>
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): <b>457/382</b>				
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>				
TITLE OF SURVEY: <b>Maryland Historical Trust Survey # 2043</b>				
DATE OF SURVEY: <b>Summer 1967</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: <b>Maryland Historical Trust</b>				
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>21 State Circle</b>				
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Annapolis</b>			STATE: <b>Maryland</b>	<b>21404</b>

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered < 50%	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This house is located south of Manor Church Road about one half mile east of Burtner in Washington County, Maryland. It is situated on relatively level ground and faces south.

The structure is a two and one half story, four bay dwelling of coursed local fieldstone. Flat arches of stone are located over all openings at the front elevation. Openings at the other elevations have rough keystones or large blocks at their lintels. Flanking the main entrance is an area where stucco has been applied to the stones. Pressed into the stucco on each side of the entrance are two vertical columns of egg and dart trim. A two story, four bay ell addition also of stone construction with a recessed double porch along its east elevation extends to the rear or north.

Windows appear to be spaced evenly in most elevations of the house. Second story openings of the main section are set well below the eaves. Window frames are moderately wide displaying pegged joining and a decorative bead at the inner edge. Nine over six pane sashes are present at the first story level of the south, west and east elevations. All other windows have six over six pane double hung sashes. Windows in the ell have six over six pane sashes held within narrow frames which do not display pegged joining. Small half windows are present at ground level of the front elevation.

The main entrance is located in the second bay from the west end of the front elevation. The door is held within a narrow frame with a beaded inner edge. This door frame appears to be a replacement of the original. Above the door is a plain four light transom. Faint evidence remains of a small gabled entrance porch at the door. Other entrances are located in the rear elevation of the main section and the east and west elevations of the ell. At the ground level of the east gable wall of the main section is an entrance into the cellar. The door, constructed of heavy vertical planks, has an unusual sliding section which can be raised and fastened over a window.

The roof of the main section is covered with asphalt shingles while the ell displays sheet metal roofing. Tapered barge boards terminate the roof at the main section. The eaves boxing is trimmed with several courses of molding. Stone chimneys with decorative corbels at their tops are located inside each gable end. Small brick chimneys are located inside the end wall of the ell and at its interior.

The interior of the house is bisected by an entrance and stair hall. The stair ascends from a chamfered square newel post. Original mantels are massive with some reeded trim. Doors with six low relief panels are used throughout. Most hardware has been replaced with 19th century box locks. The eastern portion of the cellar is finished and has a large service fireplace.

The most unusual feature of this house is the movable wooden partition joining the two southern rooms at the second story. Hinged at the ceiling, the partition was designed to be raised to create one large room comprising the southern half of the house.

S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S

(Continued)

**8. SIGNIFICANCE****PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- ☐ Pre-Columbian      ☐ 16th Century      ☐ 18th Century      ☐ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century      ☐ 17th Century      ☒ 19th Century (early)

**SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)****AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- |  |                                       |   |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education    | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering  | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-            | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     | lasaphy   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                  | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | itarian   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation           | _____                                    |

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

This house is significant for its architecture and for its presumed use as a place of worship early in the 19th century. Also important are the numerous early outbuildings on the property which remain in good condition.

Architecturally, this house is an example of the four bay, off center front door plan dwelling, a prominent type of vernacular building in Western Maryland and Southern Pennsylvania. Constructed of stone in the four bay plan this house and others like it appear to be based on Germanic tradition. The general appearance of the house and particularly its interior and exterior woodwork suggest a building date during the early years of the 19th century. The ell addition would appear to date from the second quarter of the 19th century.

Probably the most important architectural element of this house is the hinged partition between the two southern second story rooms. Constructed of heavy planks, the entire wall could be lifted and held in an open position by hooks set in the side walls. According to tradition this large room was used for religious services in the early 1800's, prior to the construction of nearby Manor Church.

Other unusual features of this house include the exterior cellar door with its sliding panel and the high front elevation. In general, the house displays a degree of refinement not frequently found in the area.

Deeds for this property can be traced only as far back as 1845 when Catherine Hershey sold the farm containing slightly more than 216 acres to Phineas Williams for \$10,815.94. The Hershey family owned a large amount of land in the Manor Church vicinity during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. In 1794, Isaac Hershey purchased from Thomas Smith 560 1/2 acres for £3000. (Liber H, Folio 922). In his will, made June 6, 1811, (Will Liber B, Folio 241), Isaac Hershey mentions his sons Isaac, David and Christian and refers to several houses on his property: A wooden dwelling adjoining a stone house and his "present mansion house" with an "addition built thereto." Christian Hershey who died about 1830, had several children including a daughter, Catherine. From information available at present, it is not known whether the Catherine Hershey who sold this property in 1845 was Christian Hershey's daughter.

(Continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Washington County Land Records.

Washington County Probate Records.

Williams, T.J.C., History Of Washington County, Hagerstown, Md:  
Mail Publishing Co., 1906.

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	°	'	"		°	'	"	
NE	°	'	"		°	'	"	
SE	°	'	"		°	'	"	
SW	°	'	"		°	'	"	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **4.5 acres.**

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

**Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant**

ORGANIZATION

**Washington County Historical Sites Survey**

DATE

**December 1975**

STREET AND NUMBER:

**Court House Annex**

CITY OR TOWN:

**Hagerstown**

STATE

**Maryland**

## 12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

The farm includes parts of the following land grants: "Content," "The Resurvey On Content," "Sawyer's Purchase," "Talliet," "Eye Trap," "Addition To Contentment" and "Resurvey On Contentment."

The dwelling is in excellent condition and stands on a tract containing 4.5 acres. Immediately southeast of the house is a two story, three bay secondary building of stone construction. The structure is said to have been slave quarters. Just west of the house is a smoke house which retains its inner structure. Nearby is a brick bake oven. South of the house is a small stone spring house. Located to the east on an adjoining property is a large frame bank barn.

Liber Folio  
457/382

July 7, 1967

Grantors: Myron H. Ridgely & Joyce Ridgely  
Grantees: John M. Shank & Joseph O. Matthews  
4.5 acres.

Liber Folio  
454/717

April 17, 1967

Grantors: Mary E. Bussard & J. Edgar Bussard  
Grantees: Myron H. Ridgely & Joyce Ridgely  
4.5 acres.

Liber Folio  
270/142

June 21, 1952

Grantor: Albertus Mullendore, Trustee  
Grantees: Edwin S. Mumma & Mary E. Mumma  
Parcel # 1. "Content", "Resurvey On Content", "Sawyer's Purchase",  
"Talliet", "Eye Trap", "Addition To Contentment", "Resurvey On  
Contentment."  
216 acres, 2 perches.

Liber Folio  
162/595

March 18, 1922

Grantor: Charles T. Mumma, et al  
Grantee: Edwin S. Mumma  
\$10,000 216 acres, 2 perches.

Liber Folio  
6/705

April 16, 1878

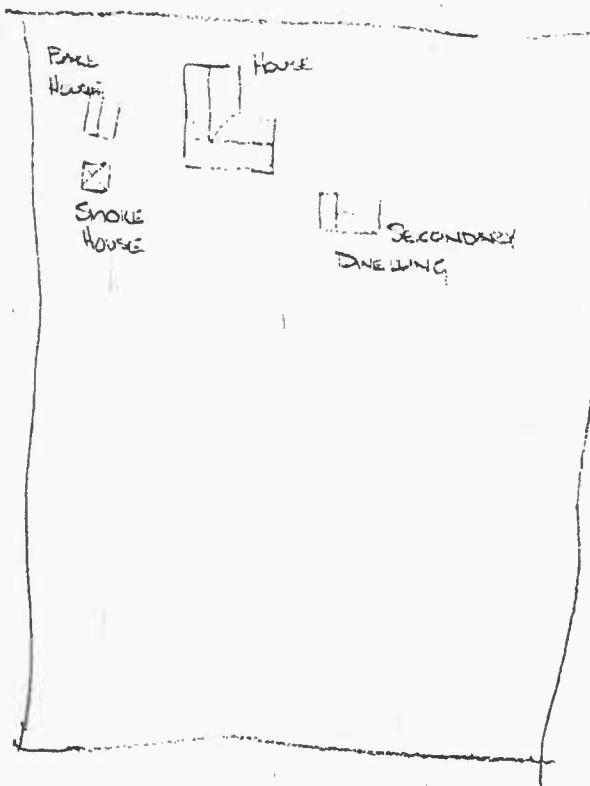
Grantors: Samuel Schlosser & Martha E. Schlosser  
Grantee: Nathaniel Mumma  
\$11,900

Liber Folio  
INI/646

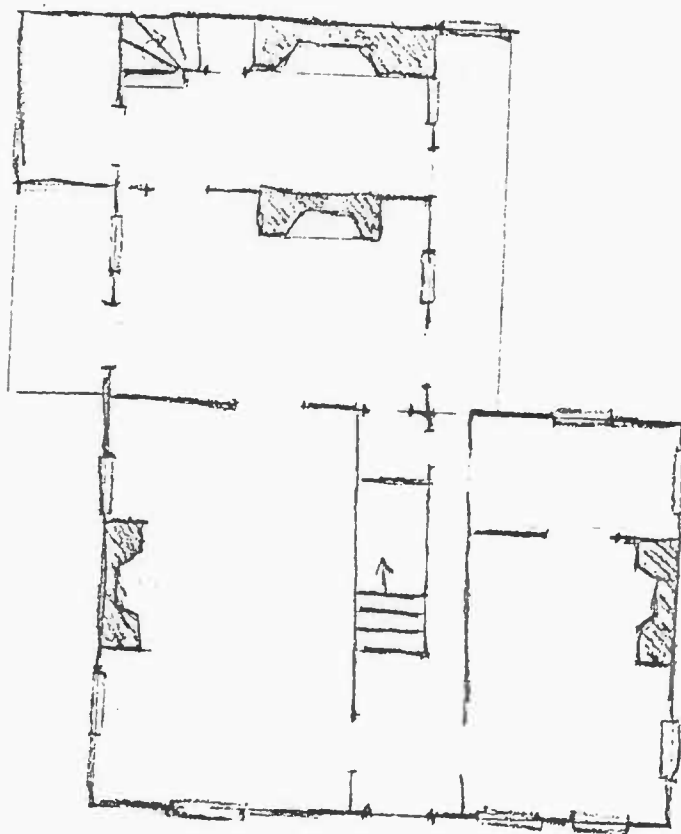
September 26, 1845

Grantor: Catherine Hershey  
Grantee: Phineas Williams  
216 acres, 2 perches. \$10,815.94

MINOR CHURCH ROAD



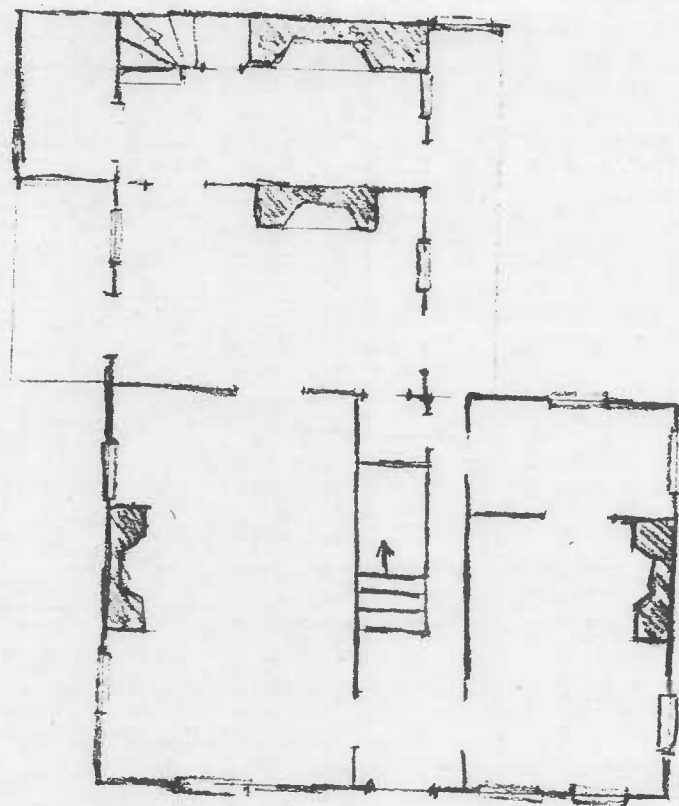
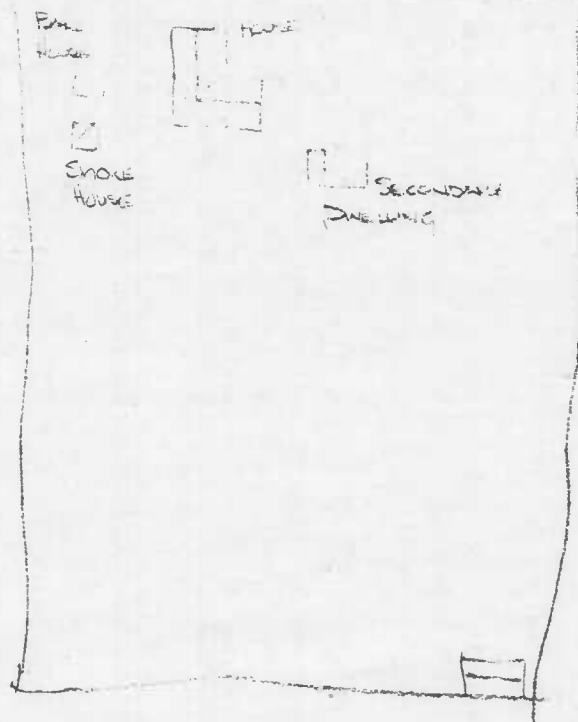
Approximate Site Plan



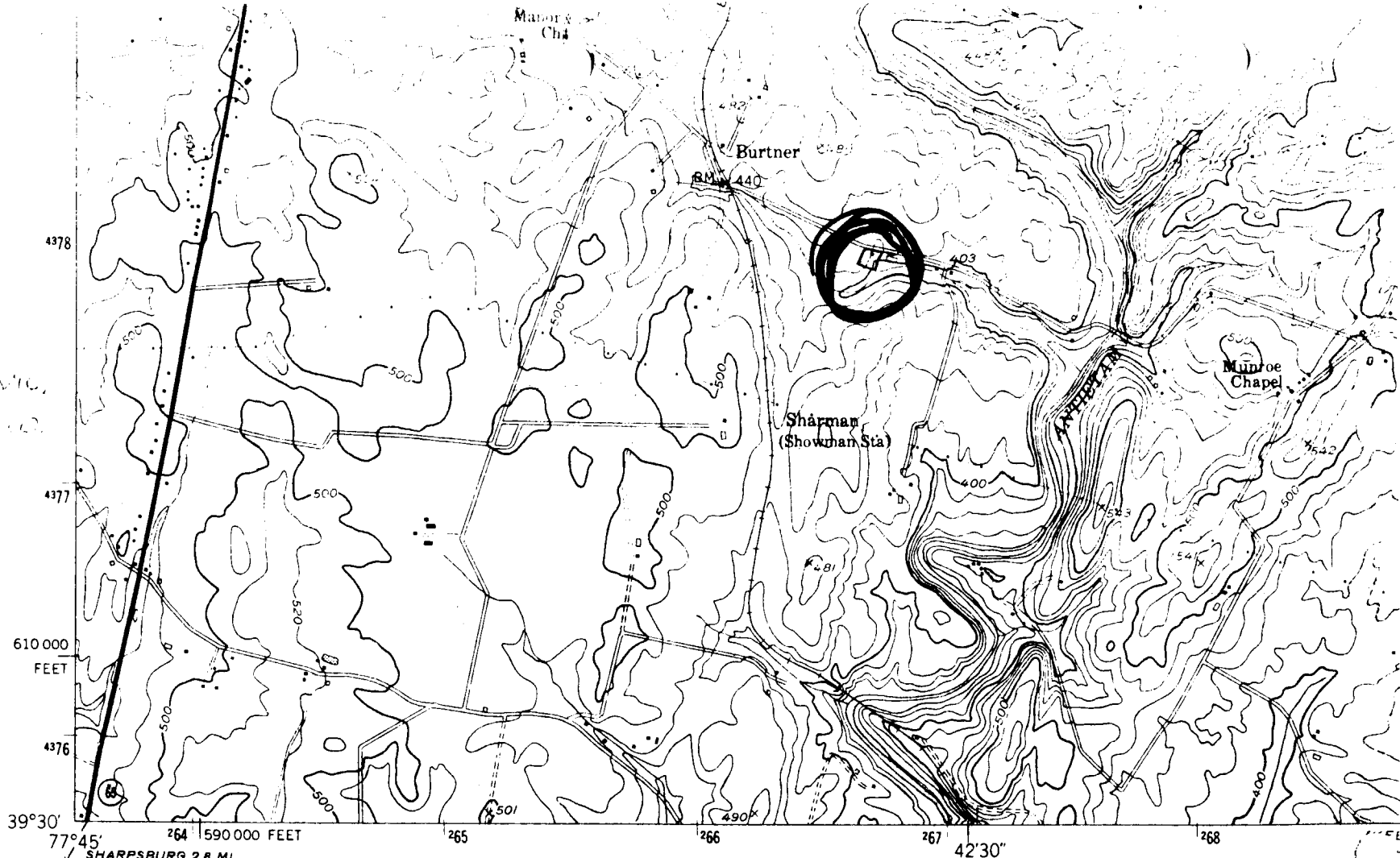
Approximate 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Plan



# Mission Church Trends



SHARPSBURG  
VIA  
BURNINGBROOK  
VIA  
BURNINGBROOK  
(10)



(SHEPHERDSTOWN)  
5462 (V.N.E.)

SHARPSBURG 2.8 MI.  
Mapped by the Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army  
Edited and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USFS

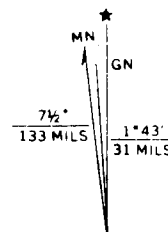
Topography from aerial photographs by stereophotogrammetric methods. Aerial photographs taken 1943

Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1953

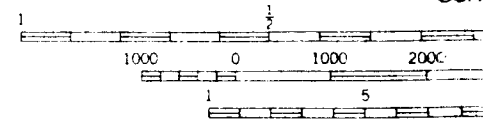
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grids based on Maryland coordinate system  
1000 meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks.  
zone 18, shown in blue

Features shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from  
aerial photographs taken 1971. This information not field checked  
Purple indicates extensions of urban areas

SHARPSBURG



UTM GRID AND 1971 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

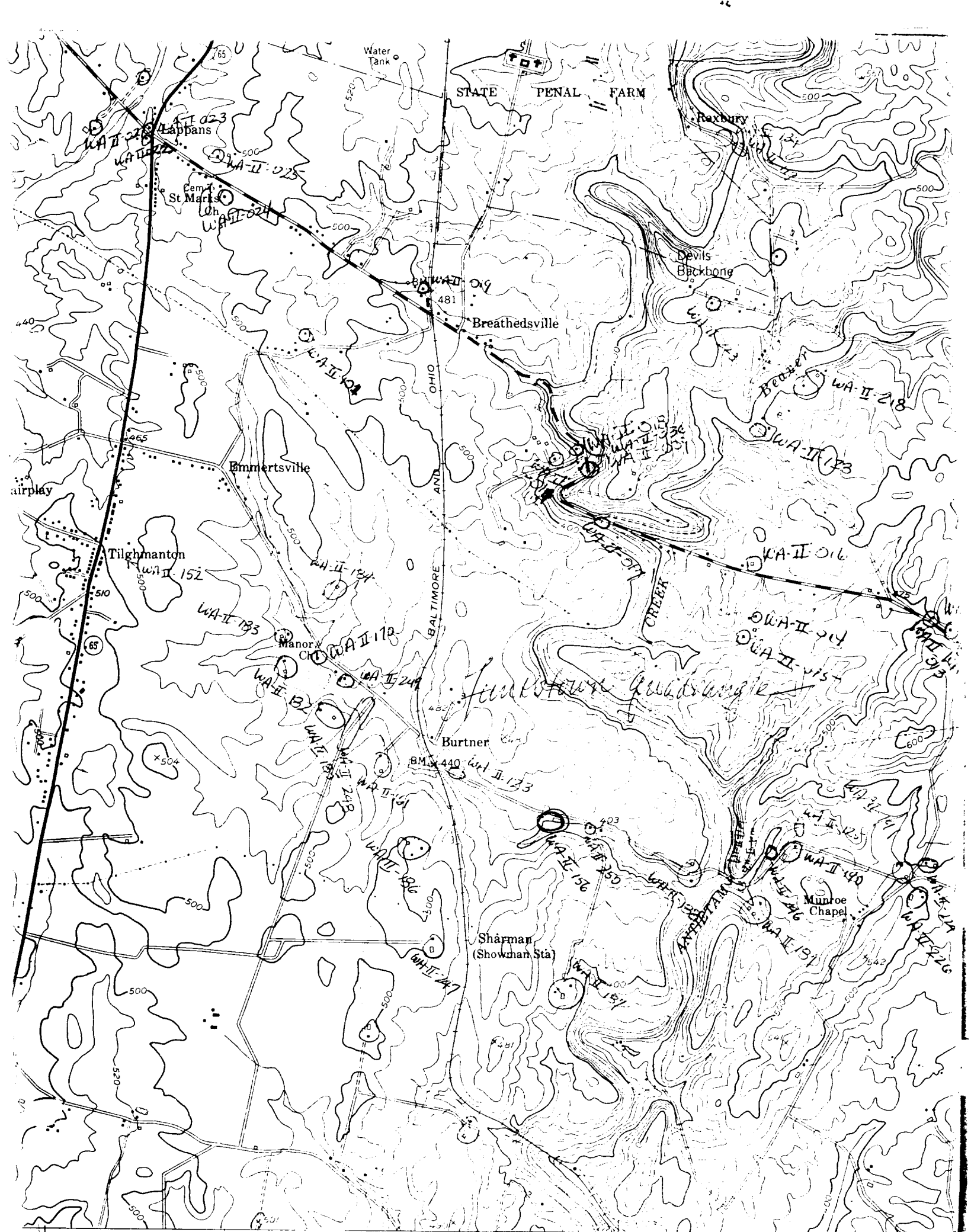


SCALE

CONTOUR  
DATUM IS

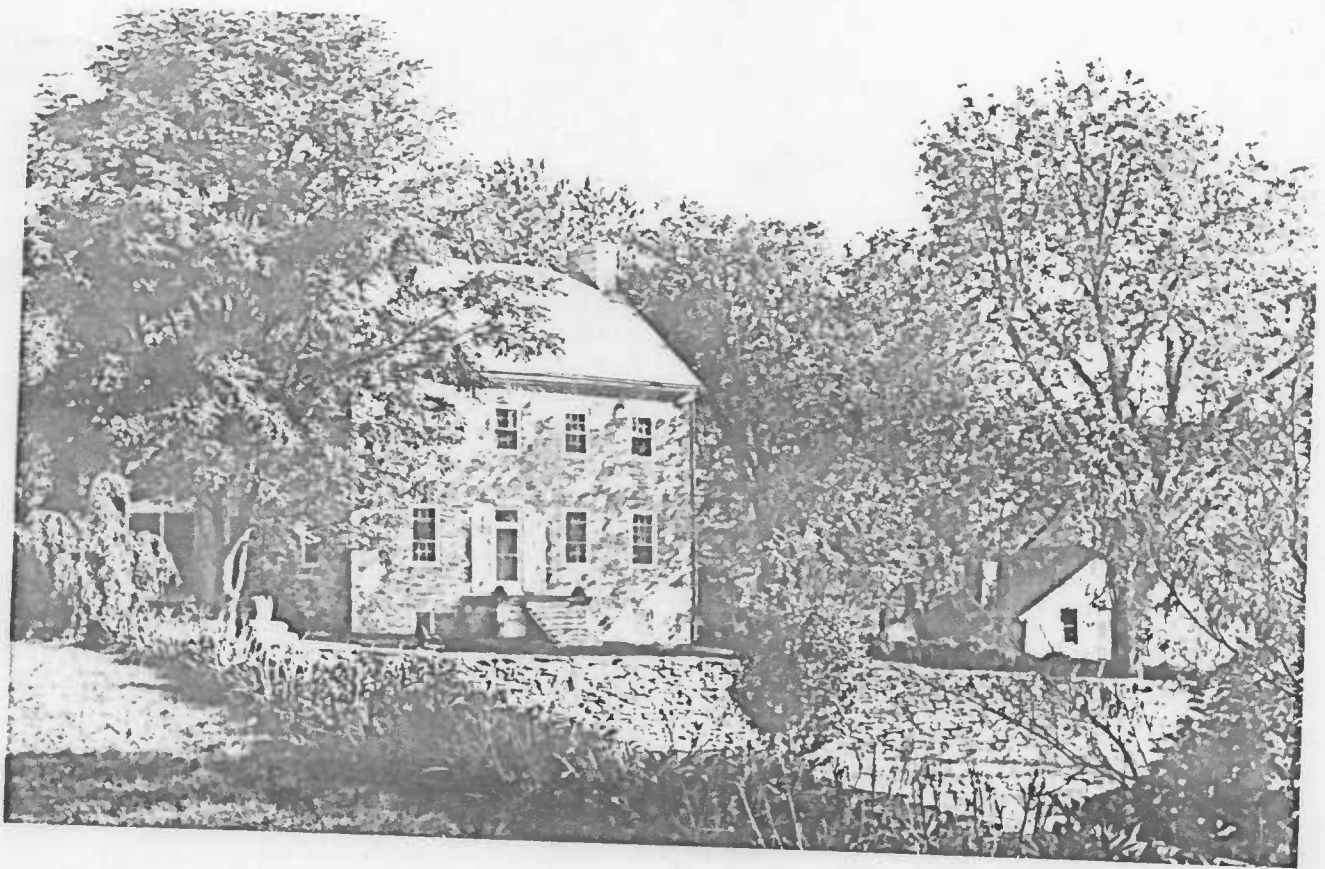
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC

WA-II-156





WA-II-156

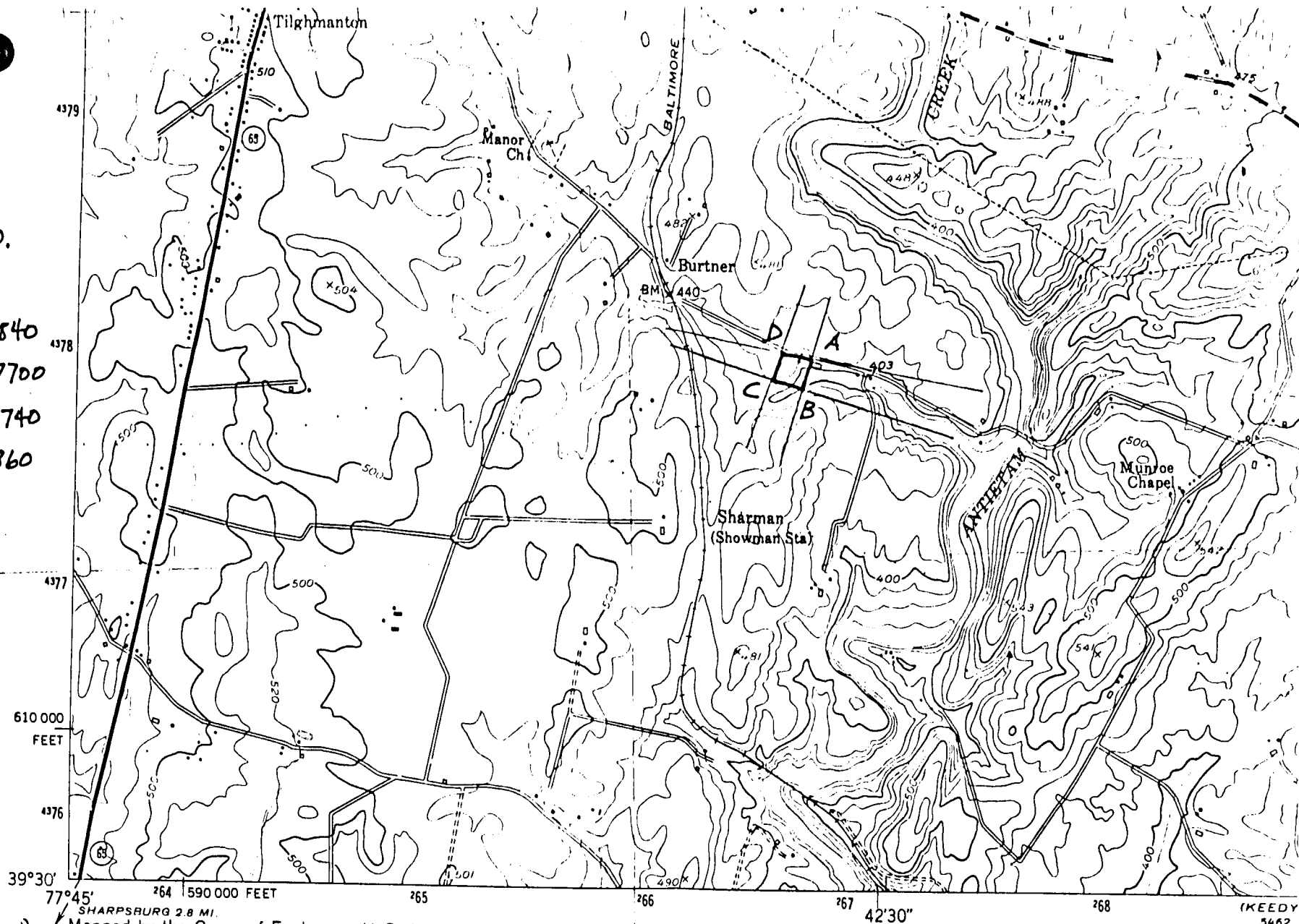


VA II-156  
SEARCH WELL  
WASHINGTON CO.  
MD.

18-266820-4377840  
18-266780-4377700  
18-266640-4377740  
18-266680-4377860

VA-II-156

(SHEPHERDSTOWN)  
5462 IV NE



SHARPSBURG 2.8 MI.  
Mapped by the Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army  
Edited and published by the Geological Survey

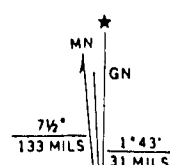
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USFS

Topography from aerial photographs by stereophotogrammetric methods. Aerial photographs taken 1943

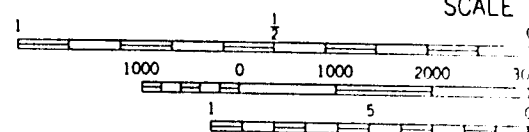
Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1953

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grids based on Maryland coordinate system  
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 18, shown in blue

Revisions shown in purple computed by the Geological Survey



UTM GRID AND 1971 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

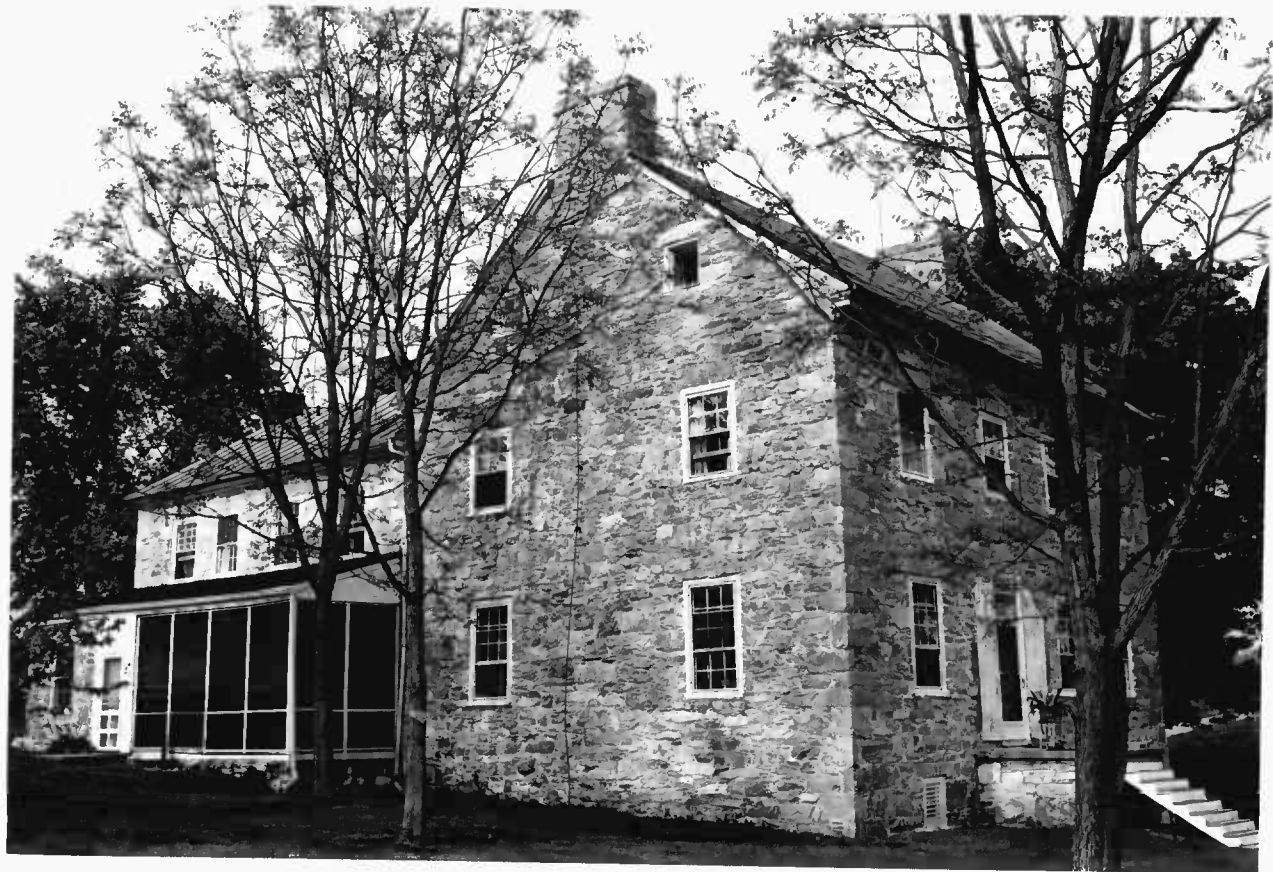


CONTOUR INTERVAL  
NATIONAL GEODETIC SYSTEM



W.H. #106  
- 10  
Alan, 1915  
Search Well

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



Vol. 11-156

50

White 10/15

ZALKA STONER DICKEY  
CONQUILTY, WASHINGTON CO  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY





100-11-008  
State 2-11-1  
N. H. H. H.

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



*W. 9.5"*  
*in 1911*  
*1911*

**PAULA STONER DICKEY**  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WR-11-156

Bar

May 1915

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



Mr. [unclear]  
[unclear]  
[unclear]  
[unclear]

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY

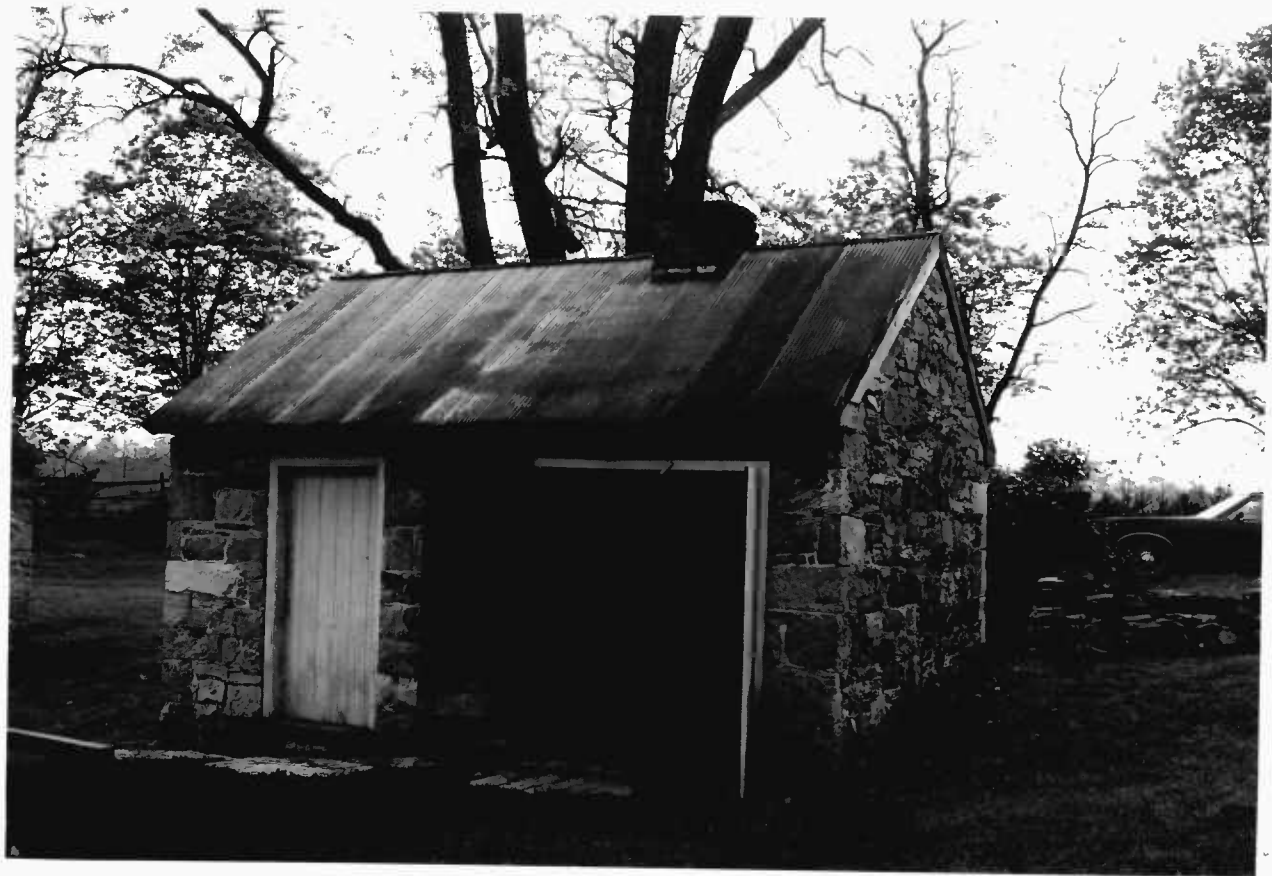




WPA 1935

So. 1000

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



10/2/11  
10/2/11  
New York

PAULA STONER DICKER  
CONSULTANT WASHINGTON CO  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



U.S. #136  
Fitzgerald, Charles P. 1941  
21 Oct. 1945

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HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



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CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY





WA-II 156

Stair

April, 1976

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CONSULTANT WASHINGTON CO  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY

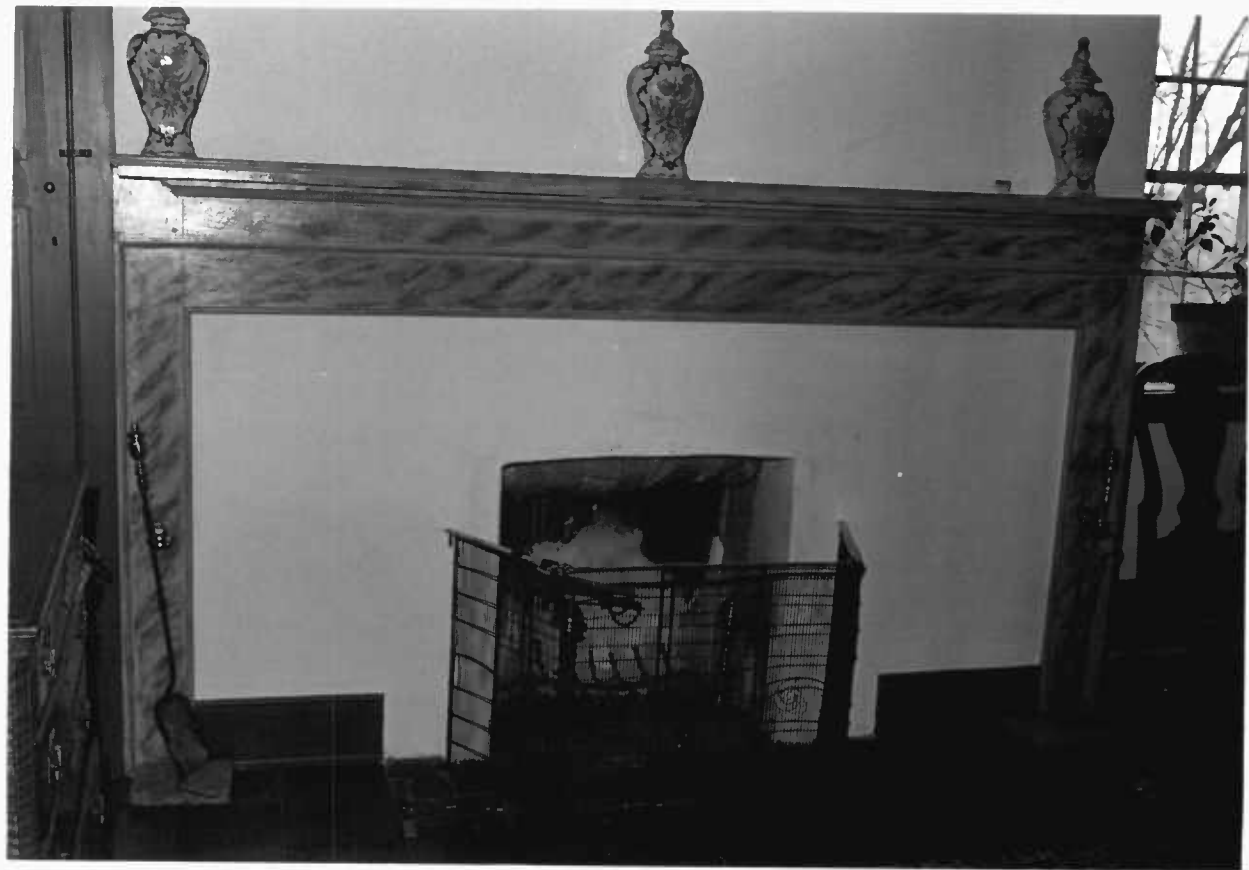


WA-II-156

S. W. Room. 1st story

April 1976

PAUL STANLEY JONES  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON DC  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WA-II-156

S. E. Room, 2nd story

Appl, 1976

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON DC  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WA-II-156

S.E. Room, 2nd story

April 1976

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT WASHINGTON CO  
NOT CRITICAL NOTES SURVEY





WA-II-156

S.W. Room. 2nd story

April, 1976

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CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY